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Borough of Haslingden



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending
31st December, 1948

and

THE REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the year ending
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HEALTH COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ex-officio).
(Councillor J. Ratcliffe, J.P.)

ALDERMAN T. BROWN (Chairman).

COUNCILLOR F. GREENWOOD (Vice-Chairman).

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alderman F. Brandwood. | Councillor J. Illingworth. |
| Alderman W. Boyson, J.P. | Councillor J. W. Holgate. |
| Councillor W. H. J. Cowpe. | Councillor J. Moran |
| Councillor W. J. Everett. | Councillor S. Nuttall |
| Councillor V. Crabtree | Councillor W. Whittaker |

STAFF

Town Clerk:

L. M. BURTON

Medical Officer of Health:

T. P. SEWELL, M.D., D.P.H. (Resigned 4.7.48.)
C. H. T. WADE, M.D., D.P.H. (Appointed 1.9.48)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. DAWSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Clerks:

D. NALLY

J. EASTWOOD (Resigned 14.7.48)

Miss E. LAW (Appointed 6.12.48)

1st July, 1949.

**To the Mayor and Members of the
Haslingden Borough Council,**

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1948, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The National Health Service Act came into force on July 5th, 1948 and from that date the personal health services became the responsibility of the County Council whilst the environmental health services including the control of infectious disease remained with the Borough Council. A divisional scheme of administration was set up in order to maintain local influence, and as your Medical Officer is also the Divisional Medical Officer co-ordination of County and Borough health services is assured.

In taking over the services and staff it became apparent that a high standard has been achieved in the past, and tribute must be paid to the Members of the Council and Officers who have carried out their duties and responsibilities with such conspicuous success.


I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Blackburn Road,
HASLINGDEN.



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Section A

**Statistics
and
Social Conditions**

Section A—General Summary

The National Health Service Act transferred the Maternity and Child Welfare, Ambulance and Diphtheria Immunisation Services to the County Council but the two last named services continued to be operated by the Borough Council at the request of the County Council for the remainder of the year.

Other changes of particular importance were the treatment of all cases of infectious disease free of charge and their admission to the most suitable hospital without regard to local boundaries and the free bacteriological examination of milk and water samples and pathological specimens by the new Public Health Laboratory Service.

During the year there was an excess of births over deaths of thirty-four although the death rate of 15.0 per thousand residents was higher than that for England and Wales (10.8).

The incidence of infectious disease apart from a mild outbreak of measles with one infant death was slight.

The infantile death rate of 64 per 1,000 live births is again high compared with the national rate of 34. Of the sixteen deaths five were due to premature birth and five to congenital defects.

Milk samples were positive for tubercle bacilli on two occasions and when it is realised that such milk may have been infectious for six to twelve weeks owing to the time taken for the examination it is clearly most important to boil all raw milk before use. Only four out of sixty samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

Progress is slowly being made in improving the water supply and thirty-nine houses with unsatisfactory private supplies were connected to the mains supply as a result of action by the Health Department. There are still 476 houses with private supplies.

Twenty-six permanent houses were completed during the year and a further twenty were in hand at the end of the year. The presence of 274 back-to-back houses, 96 back-to-earth houses and 17 cellar dwellings means there is a tremendous leeway to make up.

STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Area (in acres) | 8,195 |
| Population (Census, 1931) | 16,639 |
| Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population for 1948 | 14,540 |
| Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931) | 4,856 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948, according to Rate Books) | 5,237 |
| Rateable Value | £85,808 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £334 |

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1948 shows an increase of 320 in the total population, on 1947, which is now estimated as being 14,540.

Live Births.

| | Legitimate | Illegitimate | Total |
|---------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Male | 116 | 11 | 127 |
| Female | 117 | 6 | 123 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 233 | 17 | 250 |

Still Births.

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Male | 1 | — | 1 |
| Female | 2 | — | 2 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 3 | — | 3 |

Total Registered Births for 1948 253

Total Registered Births for 1947 294

Live Birth Rate:

| | |
|---|------|
| For year 1948 | 17.1 |
| For year 1947 | 20.1 |
| For 5 years average 1943—1947 | 15.7 |
| Decrease in 1948 on 1947 | 3.0 |
| Increase in 1948 on 5 years average ... | 1.4 |

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births for 1948:

(Live and Still Births) 11

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1948 ... 17.9

Total Registered Deaths:

| | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------|------|--------|-------|
| For 1948 | 122 | 97 | 219 |
| For 1947 | 114 | 118 | 232 |

Crude Death Rate:

For 1948 15.0

For 1947 16.3

For 5 years average 1943-1947 16.6

Decrease in 1948 on 1947 1.3

Decrease in 1948 on 5 years average ... 1.6

Crude Death Rate for England and Wales for 1948 ... 10.8

Total Maternal Deaths in 1948 Nil

Total Maternal Deaths in 1947... .. 1

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:

For year 1948 Nil

For year 1947 3.48

For 5 years average 1943-1947 4.34

Decrease in 1948 on 1947 3.48

Decrease in 1948 on 5 years average ... 4.34

Total Maternal Mortality Rate (Live and Still Births):

For year 1948 Nil

For year 1947 3.40

For 5 years average 1943-1947 4.19

Decrease in 1948 on 1947 3.40

Decrease in 1948 on 5 years average ... 4.19

Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

For 1948:

| | Legitimate | Illegitimate | Total |
|---------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Male | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Female | 6 | Nil. | 6 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 15 | 1 | 16 |

For 1947:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Male | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Female | 5 | Nil. | 5 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 16 | 1 | 17 |

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births:

| | |
|---|----|
| For year 1948 | 64 |
| For year 1947 | 59 |
| For 5 years average 1943-1947 | 45 |
| Increase in 1948 on 1947 | 5 |
| Increase in 1948 on 5 years average ... | 19 |

Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1948: 34

Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis:

| | |
|---|------|
| For year 1948 | 0.13 |
| For year 1947 | 0.14 |
| For 5 years average 1943-1947 | 0.19 |
| Decrease in 1948 on 1947 | 0.01 |
| Decrease in 1948 on 5 years average ... | 0.06 |

Death Rate from Cancer:

| | |
|---|------|
| For year 1948 | 2.95 |
| For year 1947 | 1.75 |
| For 5 years average 1943-1947 | 2.13 |
| Increase in 1948 on 1947 | 1.20 |
| Increase in 1948 on 5 years average ... | 0.82 |

Deaths from Measles (all ages) :

| | | |
|-----------|--------|------|
| Year 1948 | ... .. | 1 |
| Year 1947 | ... .. | Nil. |

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) :

| | | |
|-----------|--------|------|
| Year 1948 | ... .. | Nil. |
| Year 1947 | ... .. | Nil. |

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) :

| | | |
|-----------|--------|---|
| Year 1948 | ... .. | 1 |
| Year 1947 | ... .. | 2 |

Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages) Not Immunised :

| | | |
|-----------|--------|------|
| Year 1948 | ... .. | Nil. |
| Year 1947 | ... .. | Nil. |

Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages) Immunised :

| | | |
|-----------|--------|------|
| Year 1948 | ... .. | Nil. |
| Year 1947 | ... .. | Nil. |

As in previous years, heart disease is again responsible for the greatest number of deaths, 76 deaths being certified as due to this cause. Cancer and malignant disease accounted for 43 deaths. Details of the principal causes of death during 1948 are given in Table I.

TABLE I.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1948.

| Causes of Death | Number of Deaths. |
|--|-------------------|
| Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | — |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | — |
| Scarlet fever | — |
| Whooping cough | — |
| Diphtheria | — |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 2 |
| Other forms of tuberculosis | 1 |
| Syphilitic diseases | — |
| Influenza... .. | — |
| Measles | 1 |
| Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ... | — |
| Acute infectious encephalitis | — |
| Cancer, malignant disease (all forms) | 43 |
| Diabetes | 1 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 28 |
| Heart disease | 76 |
| Other diseases of the circulatory system... .. | 8 |
| Bronchitis | 9 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 3 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 3 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum... .. | 2 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 1 |
| Appendicitis | — |
| Other digestive diseases | 2 |
| Nephritis | 4 |
| Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis... .. | — |
| Other maternal causes | — |
| Premature birth | 5 |
| Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases | 5 |
| Suicide | 1 |
| Road traffic accidents | 1 |
| Other violent causes | 6 |
| All other causes | 17 |

Section B

**General Provision
of
Health Services**

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the new Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester. The control of infectious disease and general supervision of the health of the district is still a matter for the Borough Council, Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

Section C

**Prevalence of and
Control over
Infectious and other Diseases**

TABLE II.
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) RECEIVED DURING
THE YEAR 1948.

| “Notifiable” Diseases | Total Cases Notified | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths | Hospital | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--------------|---|---|
| | Total Cases at all Ages | Years | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total cases removed to Hospital from district | Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district |
| | | Un-der 1 | 1 to 2 | 2 to 3 | 3 to 4 | 4 to 5 | 5 to 10 | 10 to 15 | 15 to 20 | 20 to 35 | 35 to 45 | 45 to 65 | 65 and over | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Measles | 165 | 7 | 23 | 24 | 38 | 23 | 48 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough | 9 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal pyrexia | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| Dysentery | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals... | 189 | 11 | 24 | 26 | 41 | 24 | 56 | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 4 | 8 | ... |

TABLE III.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE
YEAR 1948.

| "Notifiable" Diseases | MONTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|--|
| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | |
| Erysipelas ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | 4 | |
| Measles ... | ... | 1 | 15 | 64 | 46 | 10 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | 165 | |
| Scarlet fever ... | ... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | |
| Whooping Cough ... | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | 9 | |
| Puerperal Fever ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | |
| Dysentery ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | 1 | |
| Totals ... | ... | 9 | 22 | 64 | 46 | 12 | 20 | 5 | 3. | 3 | 2 | 3 | 189 | |

Infectious Disease :

Reference has been made in the General Summary to the free treatment of infectious disease at any suitable hospital. Similarly pathological examinations are made without charge at the new Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The National Health Service Act requires that copies of all notifications of infectious disease must be forwarded without delay to the County Medical Officer. In practice these notifications are sent to the Divisional Medical Officer so that he may correlate action within the health division and to enable the Divisional Committee to gain a regular knowledge of the incidence of infectious disease throughout their areas.

Diphtheria Immunisation became the responsibility of the County Council on July 5th but the transfer was not effected during the year. The figures of 1948 are included in this report and co-operation between the District and County Council will be necessary for propaganda purposes.

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases treated in hospital during 1948.

TABLE IV.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE TREATED
IN HOSPITAL DURING 1948.

| Cases | Disease | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------|------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | Scarlet fever | Cerebro spinal fever | Meas-les | Pneu-monia | Erysi-pelas | Ophthal-mia Neona-torum |
| In Hospital at beginning of year ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Admitted during the year ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Discharged during the year ... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Died in Hospital ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Remaining in Hospital at end of year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations:

Table V shows the results of bacteriological examinations made during 1948.

TABLE V.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS DURING 1948.

| Particulars of Examination | Positive | Negative | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Diphtheria—Throat Swabs ... | ... | 10 | 10 |
| Other Swabs ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Virulence Tests | ... | ... | ... |
| Venereal Disease— | | | |
| Wasserman Reaction... | ... | ... | ... |
| Kahn Reaction ... | ... | ... | ... |
| For Gonococci ... | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Other Examinations— | | | |
| Haemolytic Streptococci | 3 | 1 | 4 |

Diphtheria Immunisation:

The percentage of children now immunised is as follows:—

| | |
|---|-------|
| Under 5 years of age | 43.2% |
| Between the ages of 5 and 15 years | 95.9% |

Cancer, Malignant Disease:

Forty-three deaths occurred during the year, twenty-five males and eighteen females.

Tuberculosis:

Each case of tuberculosis is visited by the Tuberculosis Nurse of the Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary as soon as possible after receipt of notification. Eight cases were visited during the year, the number of visits paid being 75. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged for after consultation between the Tuberculosis Officer and the Medical Practitioner concerned.

At the beginning of the year there were 63 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 11 cases were added and 5 cases taken off the register, leaving a total of 69 cases on the register at the end of the year. The following table gives an analysis of the cases on the register during the year.

TABLE VI.

PARTICULARS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER DURING 1948.

| | Pulmonary | | | Non-Pulmonary | | | Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary | | |
|---|-----------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total |
| Number of Cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the year. ... | 17 | 10 | 27 | 20 | 16 | 36 | 37 | 26 | 63 |
| Number of Cases added to the register during the year | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Number of Cases of tuberculosis removed from the register during the year on account of | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) having died | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| (b) having left the district ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| (c) having recovered | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (d) diagnosis of tuberculosis not being confirmed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Number of Cases remaining on the register at the end of the year | 17 | 10 | 27 | 25 | 17 | 42 | 42 | 27 | 69 |

Table VII gives the age of the cases of tuberculosis notified and deaths from the disease during 1948.

TABLE VII.
TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING
THE YEAR 1948.

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| Years | | | | | | | | |
| 0-1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1-5 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5-10 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10-15 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15-20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 20-25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25-35 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 35-45 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 45-55 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 55-65 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |
| | 4 | | 6 | | 3 | | ... | |

N.B. Primary notifications only included in the above table.

The examination of sputum for the presence of tubercle bacilli is carried out at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Accrington. Of 43 such specimens examined during 1948, 10 were positive and 33 negative.

In no instance has there been any wilful neglect or refusal to notify; the notification of tuberculosis in this district being most efficient and satisfactory.

There does not appear to be any excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

It has not been necessary to take action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under the Public Health Acts relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Table VIII gives particulars of disinfection during 1948.

TABLE VIII.
DISINFECTION DURING 1948.

| Disease etc. | Number of Rooms | Number of Articles |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 4 | 77 |
| Tuberculosis ... | 7 | 81 |
| Scabies ... | 4 | 24 |
| Total ... | 15 | 182 |

(Number of houses 11)

In addition to the above, a number of library books have been fumigated, and a quantity of bedding and other articles destroyed.

Room fumigation for diseases other than tuberculosis and smallpox is no longer recommended. Experience has shown that thorough cleansing with soap and water and disinfectant together with efficient ventilation of the rooms is adequate.

Infection in the case of diseases like scarlet fever and diphtheria is nearly always due to personal contact or to the infection of food and drink.

Section D.

Sanitary Circumstances

BOROUGH OF HASLINGDEN.

Public Health Offices,
Blackburn Road,
Haslingden

1st July, 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my second Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area, and the progress made during 1948.

Progress with regard to unsatisfactory private water supplies has been made and 39 houses have been coupled to the public mains. A scheme for water supply for 14 houses at Haslingden Grane is in course of preparation.

Some assessment of the need for more new houses is set out on a later page of this report. With regard to repair of existing houses it can be stated that some progress has been made and a considerable number of houses have received attention during the year. The high cost of repairs, on a rental fixed at the 1939 level, does not help in this direction.

Very extensive changes have been made in the Cleansing Service due to the change over from hired vehicles to Council owned vehicles, and, to the completion of the Prinny Hill Tip. Generally, the change over was effected smoothly, with little or no inconvenience to the residents of the Town. The new tip at Meadow Well is being designed to produce a playing field at the completion of the work.

Throughout the year foodstuffs and milk have received the closest attention, many samples have been taken and inspections made. The standards observed in the district are reasonably good and no serious contraventions have been recorded.

The many other branches of the work are noted in the Report; no items of special interest have arisen during the year.

I would like to express my thanks to all Members and Officials of the Council and the Staff of the Health Department for their interest, encouragement and valuable assistance.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. DAWSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Water :

The water supply of Haslingden is obtained mainly from the Irwell Valley Water Board, partly from the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board and partly from springs and wells. Of the 5,237 inhabited houses on the rate books at the end of 1948, 4,600 or 87.8% are supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board, 161 or 3.1% by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board, and the remaining 476 houses or 9.1% of the total, obtain their supply from springs and wells. All the water supplied by the Irwell Valley Water Board and by the Accrington and District Gas and Water Board is delivered direct to the consumer, neither of these authorities delivering water by stand pipes.

Of the 5,237 houses in the Area, approximately 43% are fitted with their own baths.

Extensions of 1,014 yds. to the existing mains of the Irwell Valley Water Board were laid during the year, for the purposes of new housing development and new services to existing properties.

The bulk of the water supplied in this area is now treated with lime for plumbo-solvency, and the results of this treatment are proving satisfactory.

45 bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made. 91 bacteriological and 21 chemical analyses of the treated water going into supply were made in 1948, and found to be mainly satisfactory.

In 1948, 91 examinations for plumbo-solvency were made and these were found to be mainly satisfactory. Lime treatment of the water is applied at the reservoirs.

All water is chlorinated at the source.

As a result of schemes initiated by this department
39 existing houses which had unsatisfactory private

supplies, were coupled for the first time to the public mains. Sixteen of the houses are situated in Town Ward and 23 in Acre Ward.

A scheme in connection with houses at Grane was in course of preparation.

Drainage and Sewerage :

The sewage disposal works are under the control of a Joint Board and deal with the sewage of the three Rossendale Valley towns, Bacup, Haslingden and Rawtenstall. The plant is situated at the lowest point in the area, and the method of treatment is precipitation and filtration with outfall into the River Irwell.

There are still a number of houses not connected to public sewers, but these are mostly in outlying districts and farms.

Sanitary Accommodation :

The figures below show the closet accommodation of the Borough at the end of the year :—

| | |
|---|------|
| 1. Privy middens—No. of middens | 1 |
| 2. No. of closets attached to these middens | 1 |
| 3. Number of pail closets | 147 |
| 4. Number of waste-water closets | 2316 |
| 5. Number of fresh-water closets | 2363 |
| 6. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) | 5 |
| 7. Number of movable ashbins | 4999 |

147 pail closets are still in use. These are sited all over the Borough, and the work of conversion is being held up owing to the absence of suitable sewers or the lack of town's water supply, in many cases the head of water not being sufficient to feed the flushing cisterns of fresh-water closets.

Table IX shows the particulars of conversions during 1948.

TABLE IX.
CONVERSIONS.

| | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|
| No. of privy closets | To fresh w.c's. | Nil |
| | To waste w.c's. | Nil |
| | To pails, etc. | Nil |
| No. of pail closets | To fresh w.c's. | 2 |
| | To waste w.c's. | Nil |
| No. of waste w.c's. to fresh w.c's. | | 4 |
| No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles | | Nil |

Public Cleansing:

In January, the change over from hired vehicles to vehicles owned by the Council was effected. Three Shelvoke and Drewry Freighters were purchased, two being employed entirely on the collection of household refuse and one on collection of nightsoil (in a special tank) and waste food. The vehicles are garaged at the Market Garage, a section of the Market being adapted for the purpose. Heating has been installed and provision is made for the drying of the wet clothes of the workmen. Household refuse is collected bi-weekly and nightsoil weekly.

During the year three tips were in use as follows, controlled tipping being used in every case: —

January to Mid-March—Prinny Hill Tip—This is now completed.

Mid-March to Mid-June—Longshoot Tip—This was a special job of tipping a small culverted valley, to enable new house building to proceed.

Mid-June to December—Meadow Well Tip—This is a large tip and it is intended to produce a good sized playing field where only a reedy swamp existed before.

Loads were tipped as follows:—

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Prinny Hill Tip— | } | These figures include loads brought by private traders, street sweepings and excavation surplus from Borough Surveyor's Department, besides household refuse. |
| 718 loads | | |
| Longshoot Tip— | | |
| 925 loads | | |
| Meadow Well Tip— | } | |
| 1684 loads | | |

SALVAGE.

Salvage was collected and sold as follows:—

| | Tons. | Cwts. |
|-------------------|-------|--------|
| Paper | 68 | 4 |
| Rags | | 18 |
| Bottles | 4 | 18 |
| Metals | 19 | 8 |
| Waste Food | 88 | 2 |
| Total weight:— | | 181 10 |

Gross Value:— £612. 8s. 2d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :

Details of the inspection work carried out during 1948, are shown in Table X.

TABLE X.
INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Public Health Acts... .. | 1470 |
| Meat and Food Inspections:— | |
| Slaughter-houses | 17 |
| Butchers' shops... .. | 38 |
| Other food preparing places | 164 |
| Market... .. | 138 |
| Farms... .. | 110 |
| Public Health Meat Regulations | 13 |
| Milk Samples | 35 |
| No. of Pigs inspected | 45 |
| Ice-Cream Premises | 8 |
| Dairies | 107 |
| L.C.C. (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938 | 261 |
| Food and Drug samples | 24 |
| Restaurant Kitchens | 31 |
| Common Lodging-houses | 4 |
| Housing—General | 995 |
| Housing—Revisits | 55 |
| Infectious disease and disinfection | 20 |
| Tips and Ashes receptacles | 1042 |
| Shops Act | 275 |
| Drains and water closets | 397 |
| Water samples | 5 |
| Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act | 600 |
| Work in progress | 14 |
| Work completed... .. | 678 |
| Smoke observations | 14 |
| Common yards, passages, etc. | 277 |
| Interviews | 97 |
| Water supply | 381 |
| Places of public entertainment | 8 |
| Offensive Trades | 2 |
| Movable Dwellings | 2 |
| Others | 544 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 7871 |

In Table XI are given particulars of:—

- (a) Notices served and complied with;
- (b) Defects and nuisances found and remedied.

TABLE XI.

(a) NOTICES.

| | Served. | Complied with |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------|
| Formal notices | 6 | 1 |
| Informal notices | 237 | 168 |

(b) NUISANCES AND DEFECTS.

| | Discovered | Abated |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| Dwelling-houses : | | |
| Dampness | 25 | 11 |
| Absence of handrail | 1 | — |
| Insufficient ashbins | 70 | 60 |
| Defective ashbins | 301 | 331 |
| Insanitary pail closets | 2 | 2 |
| Insufficient pail closets | 7 | 4 |
| Defective waste water closets | 168 | 127 |
| Defective fresh water closets | 23 | 33 |
| Defective drains... .. | 90 | 70 |
| Chimneys | 2 | 5 |
| Roofs | 12 | 10 |
| Eaves-gutters | 6 | 7 |
| Rain-water pipes | 9 | 7 |
| Fractured external wall | 2 | 1 |
| Fractured internal wall | — | 2 |
| Pointing | 8 | 2 |
| Defective plaster | 47 | 28 |
| Ceiling not underdrawn | — | 1 |
| Defective sink | 1 | 1 |
| ,, sink waste pipe | 1 | — |
| ,, fire-ranges | 6 | 5 |
| ,, windows | 11 | 3 |
| ,, floors | 8 | 4 |
| ,, doors and frames | 9 | — |
| Defective yard paving | 1 | — |
| Others | 11 | 10 |
| Totals | 821 | 724 |

Smoke Abatement:

Fourteen routine observations of the emission of smoke from mill chimneys were taken during the year, and in none of these cases did the emission of dense smoke exceed the time limit of two minutes per half hour.

Swimming Baths:

The Corporation Swimming Baths provide one plunge bath, six slipper baths and two medical (Zotofoam) baths.

The water in the plunge bath is treated by filtration, chlorination and aeration under pressure, and is chemically treated by sulphate of alumina and soda. The water is tested daily for pH value, for residual chlorine and for temperature. The pool capacity is approximately 76,000 gallons and there is a complete turnover of the water each $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

No cases had to be dealt with during the year.

Camp Sites:

One licence was issued (in January, 1948) for the use of a movable dwelling in the Rising Bridge area. The licence was for a period of one year. There are no other areas used for camping purposes in the Borough.

Schools:

The sanitary conditions in the schools are fairly satisfactory and are gradually improving. All schools are supplied with water from the Town's mains.

Rodent Control:

In March and September routine treatment of the Town's sewers for destroying rats was carried out. 146

baits were laid and 44 “takes” were registered. The highest incidence of infestation is around the Town Centre.

During the year 19 private premises were dealt with for rodent infestation, all cases being of a minor character.

Including sewer treatment work and inspection and treatment of private premises 600 visits were made in 1948.

Offensive Trades:

There is one offensive trade carried on within the Borough, viz: soap boiling. The premises receive periodic inspection.

Factories Act, 1937:

The following table shows inspections made for the purpose of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

TABLE XII

| Premises | Number of | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Prosecutions |
| Factories with mechanical power... | 26 | 2 | — |
| Factories without mechanical power | 32 | — | — |
| Other premises under the Act: (including works of building and engineering construction, but not outworkers premises) | — | — | — |
| Total | 58 | 2 | — |

The following table gives the number of defects found and remedied during the year.

TABLE XIII.

| Particulars | Found | Reme. died | Refer'd by H.M. Inspec- tor | Numb'r of Prose- cutions |
|--|-------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Want of cleanliness | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences : | | | | |
| Insufficient | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Unsuitable or defective | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Not separate for sexes... .. | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 4 | 1 | 4 | — |

There are no outworkers on the register.

Shops and Offices:

275 routine visits and inspections were made during the year, of shops in the district. No action was found necessary with regard to offices.

Common Lodging-houses, etc.:

There are two common-lodging-houses registered in the Borough, both of which are situated in Town Ward. The premises receive periodic inspection.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928:

There are no premises in the town where rag flock is manufactured, and so far as is known none is being sold or used.

Section E

HOUSING

Housing conditions:

Many new houses are still required to satisfy the need of families without separate dwellings.

The condition of many old and worn out houses continues to deteriorate and new houses for rehousing purposes are required for tenants in this class of house. Some idea of this problem can be gauged from the following:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Back to Back houses | 274 |
| Number of Back to earth houses | 96 |
| Number of cellar dwellings | 17 |
| Number of single houses | 92 |

As no “through” houses are included in the above total, it will be appreciated that further replacement houses will be required for worn out “through” houses. Some difficulty is yet being experienced with regard to shortages of labour and materials for repair of existing houses. At the end of 1948 there were 499 applications on the register for Council Houses.

Statistics:

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

| | Prefabricated Houses | | Traditional Permanent Houses. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| | Temporary | Permanent | |
| (a) By Local Authority | — | — | 24 |
| (b) By other local Authorities | — | — | — |
| (c) By other bodies or persons | — | — | 2 |
| Totals ... | — | — | 26 |

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:

When calculated by the number of houses in the Borough (5,237) and the estimated population (14,540) overcrowding would seem to be non-existent, as an average of only 2.77 persons per house is shown. The uneven occupation of houses, many 4 and 6 roomed houses having only one occupant, leads to overcrowding in others. Without a re-survey it is impossible to state the exact position. Building of ‘old persons’ houses may help to abate overcrowding by releasing larger houses for families.

The construction of a number of this type of bungalow is planned for next year.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

| | |
|---|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 1050 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 1470 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | 2 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 4 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... | 1 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 995 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit
in consequence of informal action by the Local
Authority or their Officers 630

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of
the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
repairs —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were
rendered fit after service of formal
notices:

(a) By owners —

(b) By local authority in default
of owners —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
defects to be remedied 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which
defects were remedied after service of
formal notices:—

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By local authority in default
of owners —

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the
Housing Act, 1936:

| | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | — |
| (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936: | |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 2 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | — |

Section F

**INSPECTION AND
SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

Milk:

The number of cowkeepers on the register at the end of the year was 68, all of whom have their premises registered as dairy farms. In the majority of these cases, the milk is sold by retail, either from the open kit or in bottles.

Many of the farms are situated in outlying areas of the district and difficulty is experienced in paying an adequate number of visits. Every attempt is being made, however, to make as many inspections per year as possible. During 1948, 110 such inspections were made.

There are still a number of farms below the constructional standard laid down in the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Extensive rebuilding and reconstruction work is extremely expensive at present day prices and no doubt this has a deterrent effect. Also, to some extent, shortages of labour and materials affect the position. During the year, in addition to repairs, two cowsheds have been reconstructed, two new dairies provided, one dairy reconstructed, drainage relaid at one farm, four problems of water supply dealt with, in connection with 8 milk farms in the Borough.

In addition to the farms enumerated above, there are 37 dairymen and retail purveyors of milk on the register other than cowkeepers. Most of these are tradesmen who sell milk in bottles and whose premises are periodically visited and inspected.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-1946:

Six farms in the Borough produce Accredited milk and one Tuberculin Tested milk.

Thirteen dealer's licences and two supplementary dealer's licences to retail Tuberculin Tested milk were issued by this Local Authority during 1948.

Examination of Milk Supplies:

Particulars of the bacteriological examination of milk during 1948, are given in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV.
BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK DURING 1948.

| Particulars of Examination | No. of Samples | | | | | No. of Farms |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| | Total | Negative | Positive | Satisfactory | Not-Satisfactory | |
| Bacillus Coli | 30 | — | — | 28 | 2 | 30 |
| Methylene Blue | 30 | — | — | 28 | 2 | |
| Biological for Tuberculosis | 34 | 32 | 2 | — | — | 34 |

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods:

There is no Government licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough. Occasional slaughtering under licence from the Ministry of Food is inspected at a local slaughterhouse and farms.

Visits are paid periodically to shops and all premises where foodstuffs are stored or are in course of preparation. The Market is visited each Market Day, i.e. Tuesday and Saturday. The number of visits paid for the purpose of Meat and Food Inspection during the year was 303.

The Council supported the efforts of Burnley Corporation to have the law amended with regard to preparation and sale of foodstuffs. The proposed amendments arose following an important prosecution at Burnley with regard

to preparation and sale of cooked meats. This Council, along with many others, provided information that was required by Burnley Corporation when preparing the above case. Actually the meat coming from this source and sold in the Borough was not that which was the subject of legal action.

No cases of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning have been reported during the year. Doctors are now required to notify food poisoning or suspected food poisoning cases.

During the year, 45 pigs were inspected at private slaughterhouses where permits had been given for slaughtering to take place.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1948 as unfit for human consumption and have been dealt with as directed by the Government:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Tinned Meats | 42 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| Tinned Vegetables | 784 lbs. |
| Tinned Soups | 62 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. |
| Tinned Fish | 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| Tinned Fruits | 59 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| Tinned Jams | 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| Sweet Pickles | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. |
| Tinned Milk | 116 lbs. |
| Butter | 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. |
| Fresh Meat | 284 lbs. |
| Sweets and Chocolate | 32 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. |
| Total ... | <u>1444$\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.</u> |

Ice-Cream :

A special survey of the ice-cream manufacturers was made, in consequence of the coming into operation of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934 :

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year.

Bakehouses :

There are 40 bakehouses on the register, some of them being small confectionery businesses, where baking is done in the living-room. There are still a few underground bakehouses on the register.

Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food :

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Regulations concerned with adulteration are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and their Officers take samples in this district. The bacteriological examination of foodstuffs is dealt with by the Borough Council and samples are submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory formerly at York Place, and now at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.



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